

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. ^{B-}4675

1. Name

Historic 1623-1641 Ellsworth Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1623-1641 Ellsworth Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered
☐ not applicable

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military

☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of ten two-story, two-bay wide houses early Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and simple wooden cornices were built in 1884 by Charles H. Blanch, a modest builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. All but two of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were originally painted and striped. Their appearance is exceedingly modest, similar to the small street houses built in the 1870s with their very plain cornices.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide (the three at the east end of the row are 14' wide), and occupy lots 50' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and have been painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The wooden cornice consists of a crown molding supported by two small, grooved brackets, which frame a plain frieze board.

The door and window openings have flat wood lintels and wood sills. Some sets of the original 2/2 sash remain. The doorways had a single light transom but no original doors remain. The houses sit on high basements lit by a single-light sash. Each front door is reached by anywhere from three to six concrete (one is metal) steps depending on the slope of the street at that point. Several of the sets of steps are placed parallel with the street, as is often the case with houses set on high basements.

The entire row was demolished in the summer of 1998.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates 1884

Builder/Architect Charles H. Blanch

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant as representing a very plain type of small street house that was constructed to serve as rental housing for the working class residents of the area, most of whom were German at the time of construction. The houses were built by Charles H. Blanch, a modest Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,300 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$400 to \$600.

In this particular case Blanch sold all ten of the houses in 1885 to an investor who rented them out until 1889 when he began to sell them to German and Irish owner-occupants. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

At the time of construction the street was known as St. Joseph's Street, after St. Joseph's Hospital, which occupied the block bounded by Eden, Caroline, Hoffman, and Oliver.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

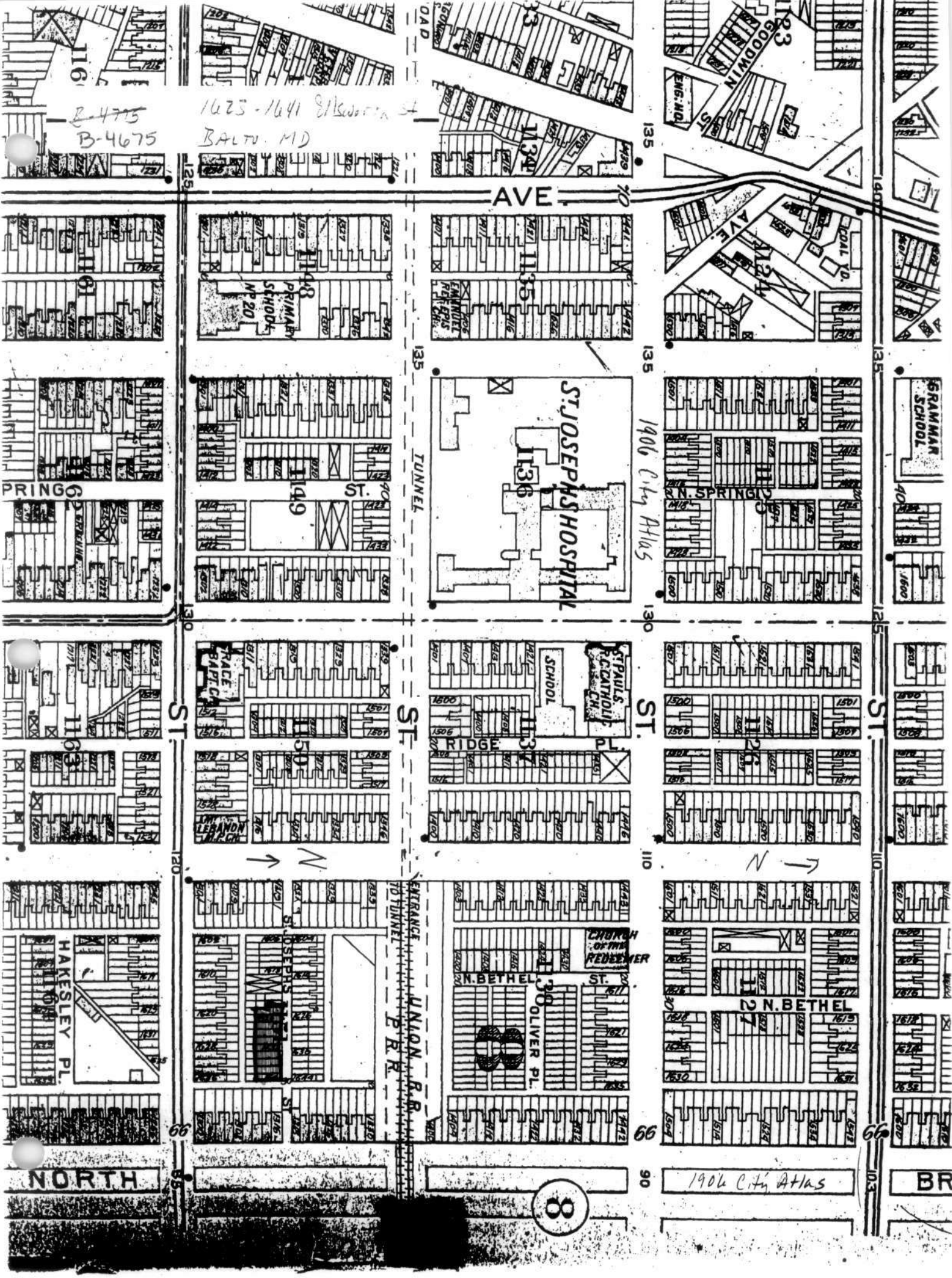
11. Form Prepared by

name / title	Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward	date	June 2000
Organization	The Alley House Project	telephone	
street & number	1306 Carrollton Ave.	state & zip code	Maryland 21204
city, town	Baltimore		

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



116

B-4775
B-4675

1625-1641 S. Keweenaw St
BALTO. MD

AVE

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

N. BETHEL

PRINGO

116

HALESLEY PL.

NORTH

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

BR

8

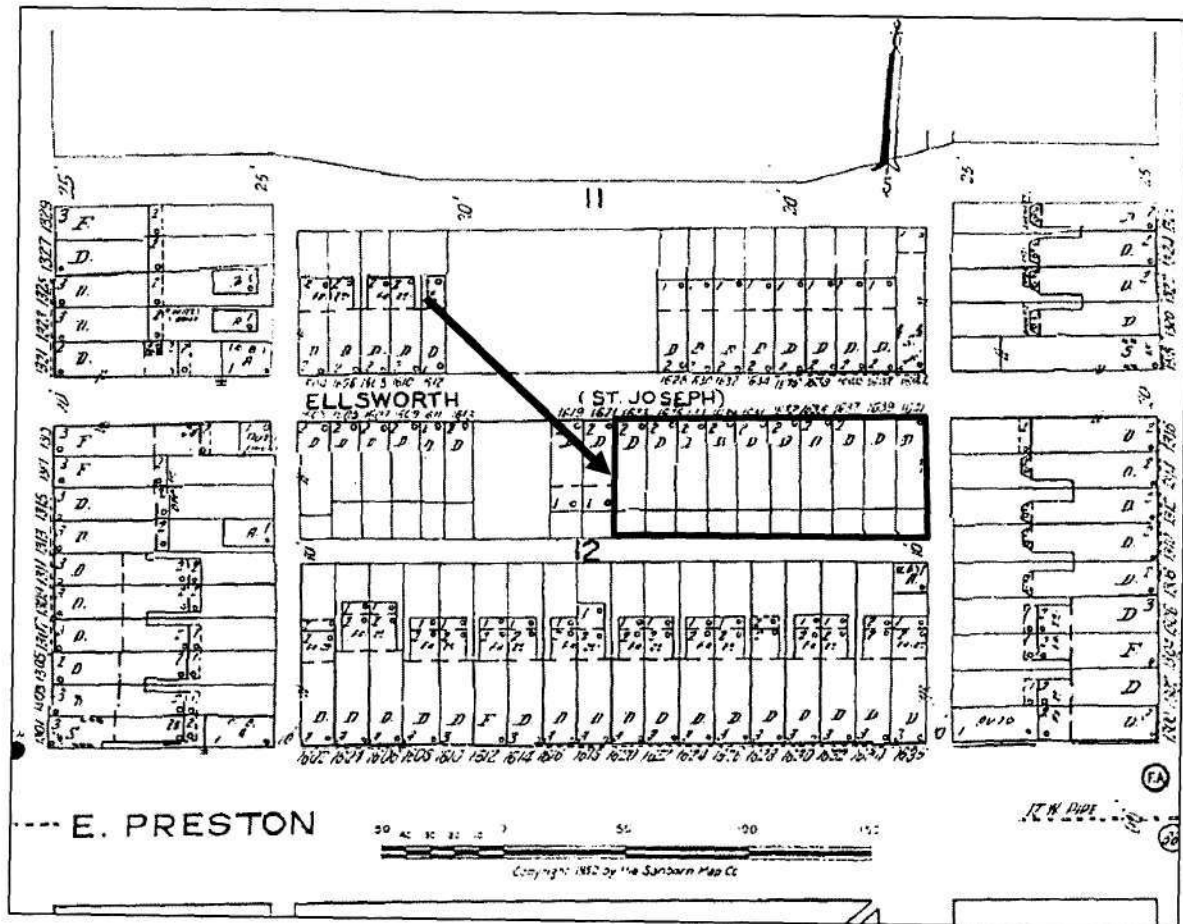
1906 City Atlas

B-4675

1623-1641 Ellsworth Street

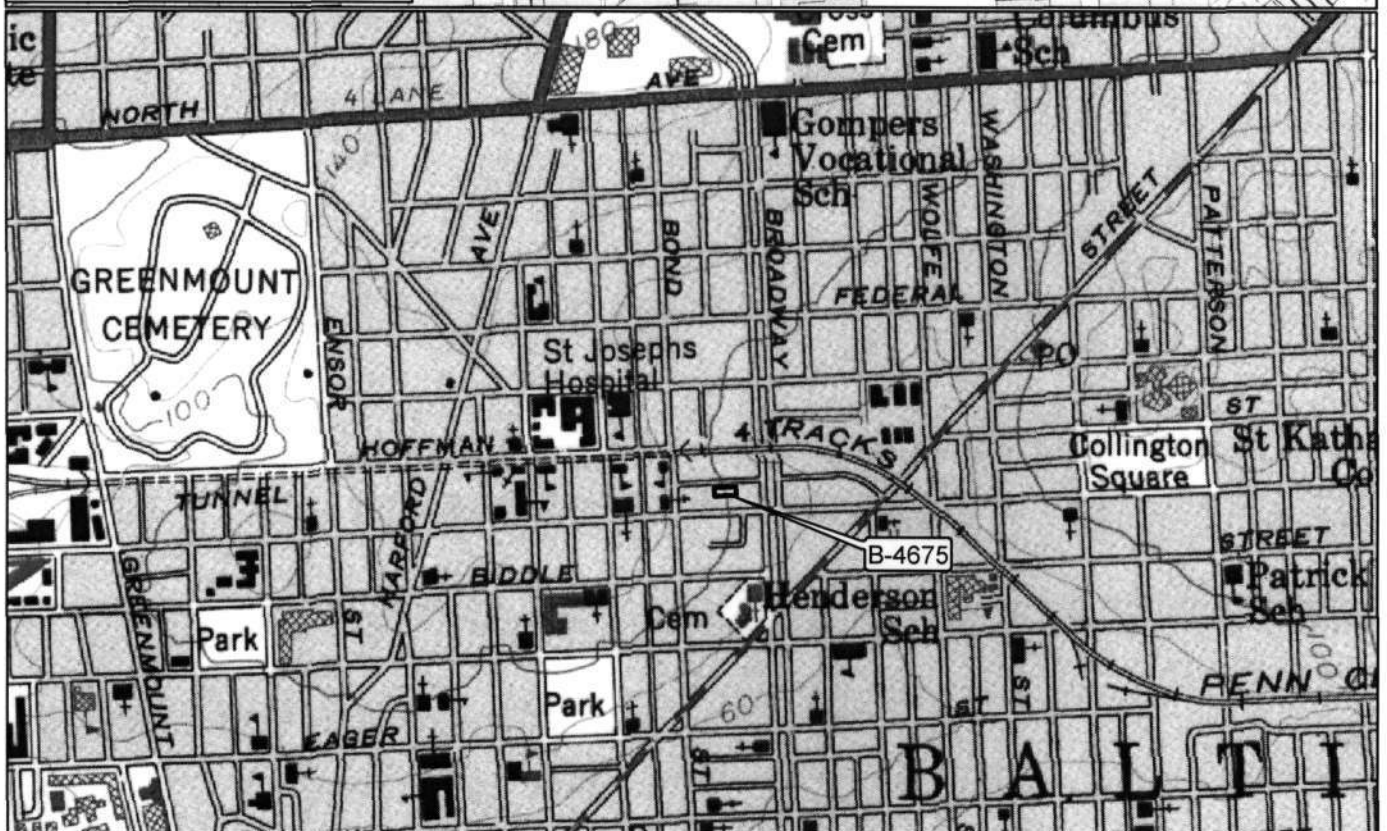
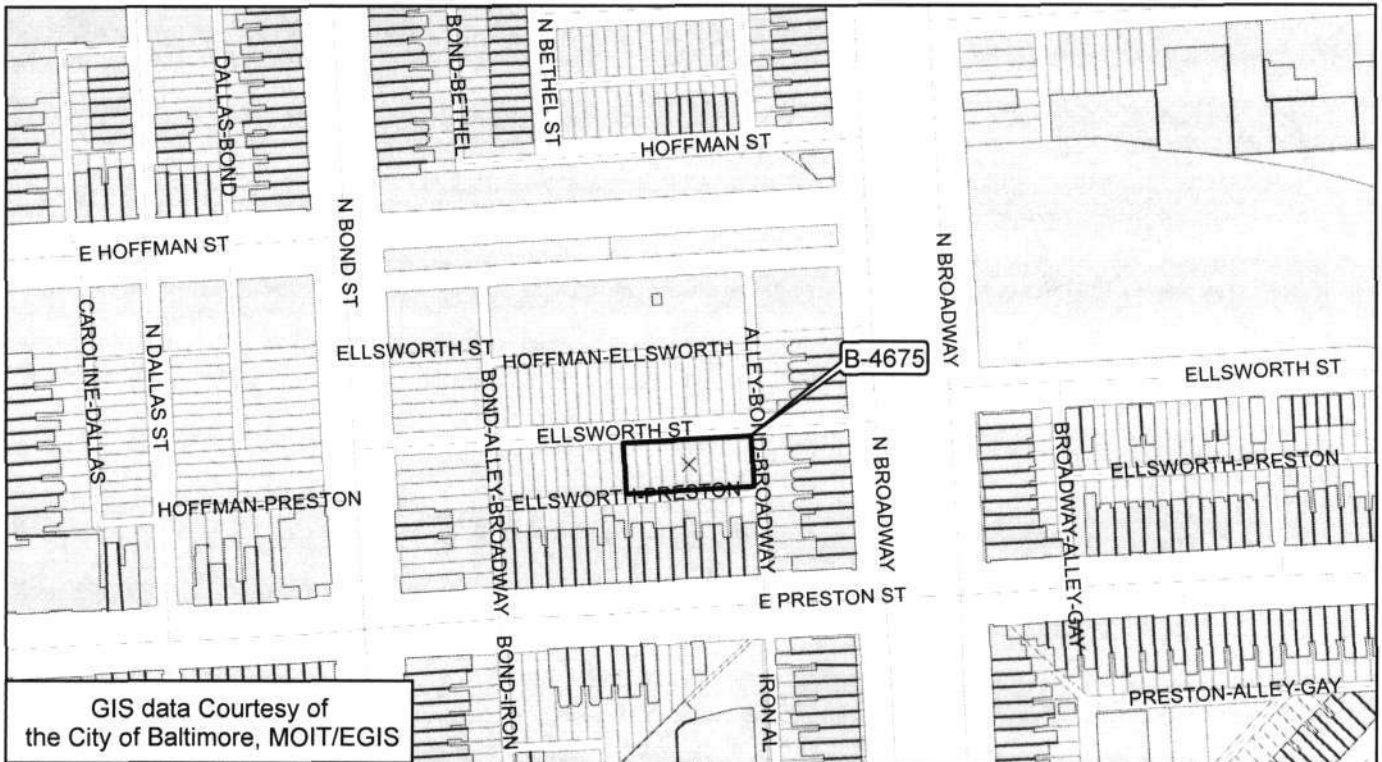
Sanborn Map 1914, Reprinted 1953

Volume 3, Sheet 296



B-4675
1623-1641 Ellsworth Street
Block 1151, Lots 070-079
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

Demolished





1623-

1623-1641 Edsworth

S

180

[25]116 0211 N N H 12

B-4675

1623-1641 Edsworth St.

BALTO. MD

S. Allan

5/97

MD. SAPO

1/2



1631

1631

1631 Ellsworth

B-4675

1631 Ellsworth St.

BALTO. MD

S. Allan

5/97

A/Z

1241116 0211 N N N 12